

**CLAIMS:**

1. A method of embedding a watermark in an information signal bit-stream, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream;

storing a first copy of the received portion in a first buffer;

5 watermarking a second copy of the received portion; storing the resulting watermarked signal in a second buffer;

performing a check at predetermined intervals to determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by being watermarked; and

10 outputting the first copy of the received portion from the first buffer if the check determines the bit-rate has changed, otherwise outputting the watermarked signal from the second buffer.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said watermarking step comprises embedding a watermark in the second copy of the received portion by transcoding.

15 3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information signal comprises at least one of a transport stream and a program stream.

20 4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information signal bit-stream comprises a series of packets, the predetermined interval corresponding to the first buffer receiving an integral number of said packets.

25 5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined interval is when a predetermined start code of the bit-stream is detected at a predetermined position within the first buffer.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined interval corresponds to at least one of the buffers being filled by a respective stored signal.

7. A computer program arranged to perform the method as claimed in claim 1.

8. A record carrier comprising a computer program as claimed in claim 7.

5 9. A method of making available for downloading a computer program as  
claimed in claim 7.

10. A watermarked information signal formed according to the method as claimed  
in claim 1.

10 11. A record carrier comprising a watermarked information signal as claimed in  
claim 10.

12. An apparatus for embedding a watermark in an information signal bit-stream,  
15 the apparatus comprising:

a receiver for receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream;  
a first buffer for storing a first copy of the received portion;  
a watermarker for watermarking a second copy of the received portion;  
a second buffer for storing the resulting watermarked signal;

20 a controller arranged to perform a check at predetermined intervals to  
determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by the watermarking  
process; and

25 a multiplexer arranged to output the first copy of the received portion from the  
first buffer if the check determines the bit-rate has changed, and otherwise to output the  
watermarked signal from the second buffer.